



# *Cat* **aFFairs**

Spring 2010  
ISSN 1834-870X

JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW

- ★ **Pets in the City**
- ★ **Cats of Istanbul**
- ★ **World Animal Day**





## **"Three reasons why Advocate's my number one."**

Dr Katrina Warren, Veterinarian

If you love your pets like Katrina loves Archie, Toby and Milly, you'll want the best possible parasite protection too. That's why she chooses Advocate for all three.

Advocate kills more kinds of parasites in cats and dogs than any other product. It eliminates heartworm, hookworm, roundworm, ear mites, fleas and flea larvae.

In dogs, Advocate also controls whipworm, mange mites and lice. And with just one monthly application you squeeze onto your pet's skin, Advocate makes parasite control simple.

If you need any more reason to choose Advocate, it's probably purring or woofing beside you right now.

**The most complete all-in-one parasite protection.**

*Advocate is available from your veterinarian.*

® ADVOCATE is a registered trademark of Bayer AG, Leverkusen, Germany.







# Contents

	Page
Council Report	3
Pets in the City	4
The Cats of Istanbul	5
Cat Protection Diary	6-8
Scratching Post	9-13
When is it time to say goodbye?	14
In Memoriam	15

Cover photograph – CPS kitten Mittens by Amy Karp

©The Cat Protection Society of NSW. Cat Affairs is intended to provide general information only and should not be taken as constituting professional advice. Views expressed in this journal are not necessarily those of the CPS and mention of a person, product or business does not mean endorsement by CPS.

## Council Report

While financial turmoil and political uncertainty appear to be the hallmarks of 2010, Cat Protection has stayed focused on what we know best: that every cat deserves a loving and responsible home. To this end, we have continued to promote early-age desexing; discount desexing of cats for people on low or fixed incomes; and finding loving and responsible homes for the cats in our care.

We know that pet-unfriendly accommodation is hurting people and cats, and we've been promoting the need for change. We applaud the Petcare Information and Advisory Service on their initiative *Pets in the City* which we look at in this issue. As well as helping individual clients with accommodation problems, we've written to the major parties and independent MPs in NSW Parliament asking them what their policies are on these issues (and others). We will publish their responses in the Summer *Cat Affairs*.

We know that cats (and dogs, and birds and rabbits ...) can provide loving friendship to people, and especially to older people living alone, for whom their pet may be their only companion. We've been investigating ways this important relationship can be sustained for people who find it difficult to look after themselves, and we've worked with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing on a pilot program to consider how people delivering community aged care in the home can consider pet care as an important part of person-centred care.

We know that Cat Protection offers a unique service as a specialist feline care and welfare centre and so we've continued to work on improvements 'behind the scenes'.

Most of all, we know that our strength comes from the incredible generosity and kindness of our Cat Protection community – from those who gave in the past, such as our late friends Shirley Pikler and Daria Love, to those members, volunteers and supporters of today. Our mission is to care for cats and no amount of uncertainty in the world will change that. As long as you're with us, we'll be here for the cats.

Rhonda House  
President







# Pets in the City

On 17 August, Cat Protection attended the launch of a great initiative of the Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS) – *Pets in the City* – a comprehensive guide to looking after pets in the city. The guide is available to download free from [www.petsinthecity.net.au](http://www.petsinthecity.net.au) and includes information on choosing the right pet, negotiating rental and strata agreement to keep a pet, and keeping mainly or only indoor pets happy and healthy.

The launch was held at the pet-friendly Sydney hotel, the Sebel Pier One at Walsh Bay. There were tables set with tiered platters of cakes and sandwiches, coffee and tea for two-legged guests ... and a sideboard with dog treats and a balcony with Astroturf as a restroom for the many dogs in attendance! All the dogs were very well-behaved and there were even a couple of guest cats.

Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore MP, launching *Pets in the City*, spoke of how much she enjoyed taking her dogs for walks in her neighbourhood. Hearing his name and the word 'walk', her dog Banjo leapt with excitement, reminding us all of the delight our four-legged friends both give and receive.

Ms Moore said, "In a society in which people often live on their own, pets give pleasure, they teach responsibility, they provide security, and they love and are loved in return."

Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows around one in four Australian households currently live in flats, units or apartments. As we know too well at Cat Protection, this form of accommodation is frequently pet-unfriendly: not because cats and dogs can't enjoy living in

such environments, but because owners' corporations/strata and landlords don't welcome them.

We average at least one cat surrendered to us each week because of pet-unfriendly housing – it is heartbreaking for all concerned. Pet resumés – documented records including references – can help to prove your cat will be a good tenant but there are no guarantees. Law reform is needed in this area to protect tenants and landlords – we know that most pet owners would be happy to pay a 'pet bond' but these are illegal.

The default position for strata should be pet friendly – as it is in the ACT. Excluding thousands of people from keeping pets is not just making those people miss out on the joys of a pet, but creates the tragic situation of pet homelessness and the killing of healthy cats and dogs in pounds and shelters. As a no-kill shelter, there is a high demand on our service but our capacity is obviously limited.

Responsibly owned cats (and dogs) make great tenants. Desexed cats are clean, quiet and with environmental enrichment (toys, perches, a cat friend) can live perfectly happy and healthy lives completely indoors. Cats make us better people too – they benefit our physical and mental health, help us to be more empathic and provide loving companionship.

One of the key findings from the PIAS research was that people who do keep dogs and cats in high density living do so successfully and responsibly, and report very little difficulty. Dog and cat owners in highly urbanised environments expressed similar levels of

satisfaction with their pet-owning experience as those in the general population: 94 per cent for dog owners and 93 per cent for cat owners.

The most common problem associated with pet ownership in medium to high density dwellings was hair shedding. The solution to this is easy – regular brushing, regular vacuuming, and those great sticky rollers (we sell them at Cat Protection!) to remove cat hair from clothes and soft furnishings.

The PIAS guide also debunks myths such as large dogs needing big backyards – as they say "A number of large dog breeds are quiet and calm couch potatoes. By contrast, many small dog breeds are extremely noisy and energetic." And yet the nonsensical approach of some so-called 'pet friendly' apartments is to put a weight limit on the size of the dogs allowed!

Jean Cocteau said "I love my cats because I love my home and after a while they become its visible soul." A city without cats is a city without a soul.

You can help to make our cities more pet-friendly. Write to your local state Member of Parliament asking for more pet-friendly housing regulations; if you live in strata, fight for pet-friendly by-laws. Most importantly, prove the detractors wrong by ensuring you are a responsible pet owner – make sure your cat is desexed, registered and microchipped, keep them indoors or confine them to your property with cat-proof fencing or a cat run, keep them parasite-free with regular flea and worm treatments, and keep them healthy with regular vet checks. Lets keep pets in the city.



# The Cats Of Istanbul

Gil Appleton

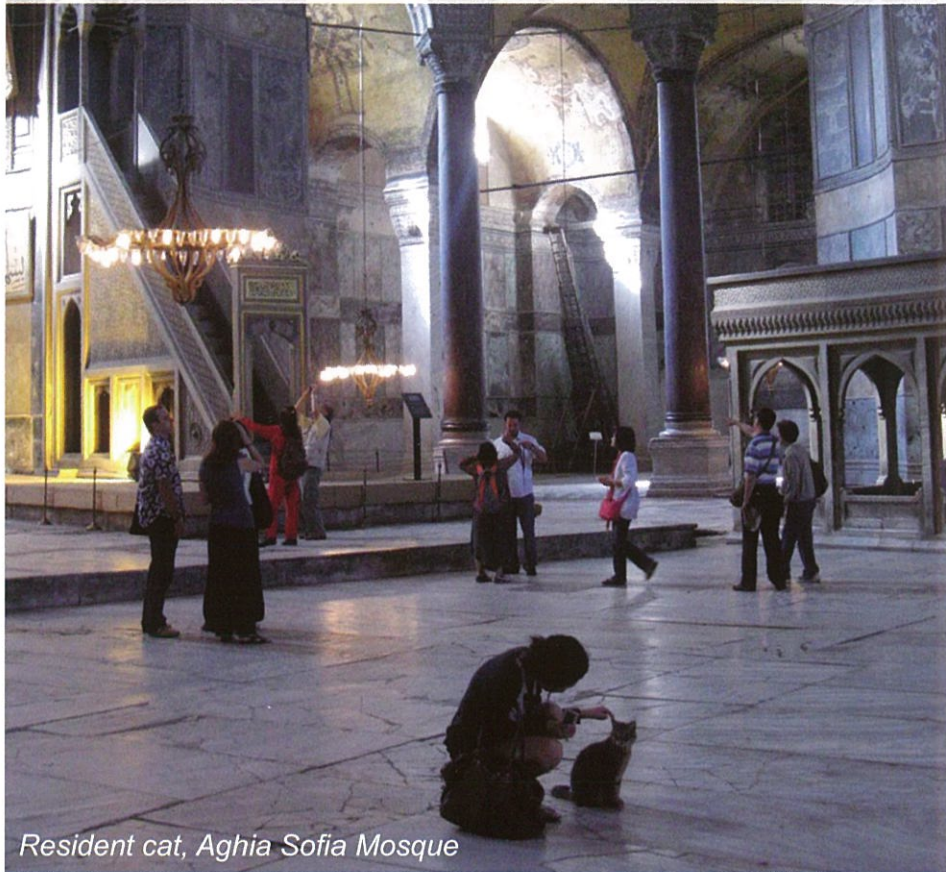
Istanbul, renowned for its superb location on the Bosphorus and its magnificent mosques, palaces and museums could also justifiably be called The City of Cats. Thousands of cats live on its streets, and in or around its great monuments. In recognition of this, a documentary film about the city's cats is being made as part of Istanbul's year as a European Capital of Culture for 2010.

The street cats are fed scraps by café staff and shopkeepers, or live by raiding the large open skips that house the city's refuse. On my recent visit, a group of expectant cats waited each morning outside a butcher's shop near our hotel; and a large friendly cat, dirty cream with brown blotches and carrying the scars of many a street fight, appeared each morning from across the roofs to greet people breakfasting on the hotel's terrace four floors up. As we lunched at an outdoor café in the fashionable Beyoglu area across the Golden Horn, the female proprietor fondled a superb tabby. I asked if it was her cat. 'No', she said with regret, 'but I love him'. Nearby a group of street cats drank at water bowls left for them by residents.

In response to well-meaning tourists concerned about the cats' welfare, Sermin Ildirar, project officer for the Capital of Culture, says: 'The cats, just like the (*also ubiquitous*) seagulls, are the owners of Istanbul and should not be imprisoned in shelters'.

The documentary makers point out that the cats of every neighbourhood and district have characteristics peculiar to themselves, and we did indeed notice remarkable variations in the types and markings of cats in different areas of the city. In the main tourist area, Sultanahamet, the cats were similar to the average Australian domestic shorthair, but in Beyoglu many were longhaired and across the Bosphorus cats tended to be closer to the Asian type, with slim bodies and long legs.

The film is to be shot at cat's eye level, even during interviews with cat lovers in each neighbourhood.



*Resident cat, Aghia Sofia Mosque*

The makers say: 'We Istanbulites are quite accustomed to living together with cats. Unlike us, foreign guests immediately notice Istanbul's cats. Just to spite the skyscrapers, these cats show the city to be just as warm as a small town on the Mediterranean'.



*Rug shop kitten*

*An article by Christopher Torchia, posted by The Associated Press on 24 August, notes that: "Turkey introduced an animal protection law in 2004, and state policy is to catch, neuter and release or find a home for street animals ... Cats benefit from their association with Islam in Turkey, where the population is mostly Muslim though the laws and political system are secular. A popular saying goes: 'If you've killed a cat, you need to build a mosque to be forgiven by God.'" Editor.*





# CAT PROTECTION DIARY

## Fostering happy cats

Our foster care program is an essential part of our feline welfare program. Volunteers care for our cats (typically mums & bubs, but sometimes shy adult cats who need a bit of one-on-one TLC before being ready for adoption) in their own homes until the cats are ready for rehoming. The program helps us maximise the number of cats we can help and also socialises the kittens and cats in a normal household. Raising kittens in a cattery environment is not ideal and they are at greater risk of flu because they are too young to be vaccinated. Our foster carers do an incredible job making kittens and cats 'forever family home ready'. We thank them all.

It can be sad to give up the little ones you've cared for – if you think that's going to be too hard then best to help some other way. However, from personal experience I can say there is a great satisfaction knowing that you've helped a cat or kitten in their time of need, giving them the gift of being able to find a forever home they can call their very own. And of course, when you give them back, you're free to go back to giving all your attention to your own cats. If you're interested in finding out more about our foster care program, please check our website [www.catprotection.org.au](http://www.catprotection.org.au) or phone us on 9557 4818.

## Open Day

Our Open Day will be held on Saturday 30 October from 11am to 2pm. It again coincides with Newtown's 'Under the Blue Moon' festival so our theme will be mystical and magical. Feel free to drop in for a visit – there will be information, people on-hand to answer your questions, and a colouring competition for children – 103 Enmore Road, Newtown.



## Warnings for pet lovers

We know that there are many dangers to our beloved pets, from naturally occurring toxins in plants to manufactured poisons. With spring a great season for gardening, we thought it timely to remind our readers to be cautious with the products used, for example, snail baits are highly toxic to cats and other animals, including birds.

A good website for information on safe alternatives can be found at [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au) – go to the 'at home' menu and then to 'alternatives to chemicals'. There are also many good magazines on organic gardening. Our furry and feathered friends will thank us for the extra effort we make to keep our gardens safe places.

Also, don't forget that ticks are more prevalent in the warmer months. Many of our vets reported that last year they had seen an increase in tick-bite victims with an increasing number in suburban areas where ticks haven't been a problem in the past. For your pet's health, it's a good idea to get into the habit of a daily 'once-over' but especially in tick-prone areas you should be strict

about checking your pet daily – run your hands carefully all over the cat to feel for anything unusual (lumps, bumps, tenderness) especially around the back of the neck. Contact your vet immediately if you think your cat has a tick or you notice symptoms of lethargy, weakness, difficulty walking or breathing. Even once a tick is removed the cat may need treatment.

And remember, never use dog flea and tick treatments on cats. Typically these contain permethrin (a synthetic pyrethrin, also used in insecticides) which can be deadly to cats. Cats should not have any exposure to permethrin or pyrethrin – they should not even be in contact with a dog who has been treated with permethrin as they might groom the dog and ingest the poison. If you have a multi-pet household, it is best to consult your vet about a safe parasite treatment program for all your pets. Sadly, a supporter from Canada informed us his cat died after his home had been sprayed for insects with a pyrethroid product, even though he had kept the cat away for the recommended 12 hours.



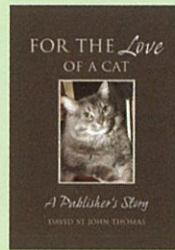
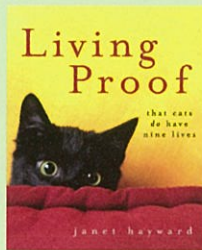
# CAT PROTECTION DIARY

## For the love of cats

*For the Love of a Cat* by David St John Thomas and *Living Proof ... that cats do have nine lives* by Janet Hayward are two beautiful, locally published books about our favourite subject.

*Living Proof* recounts some amazing tales of survival and sass – and every cat person reading them will be reminded of their own cats' incredible feats. These true stories of feline determination, courage and beauty will inspire and entertain. It is a joy to read.

David's book celebrates the many cats he has met and shared a home with over the years: "These words are unashamedly addressed to those who love cats, who may already have all the cat books they 'need' on their shelves, but hopefully will enjoy a different angle and being introduced to my personal range of cat personalities." Yes, indeed, there is room for this book on any cat lover's shelf – David's affection and admiration for our feline friends shines through in this wonderful reminiscence.



There is even a reference to us (p216): "In Australia, for instance, though run on a shoestring, the Cat Protection Society of New South Wales finds new homes for nearly a thousand kittens and 400 adults a year". Sadly, cat ownership and thus adoptions have been in decline since then (see our story on Pets in the City) but we continue to do our best.

Both books are published by Exisle Publishing and we are delighted to stock these in our shop and you can also order them by mail, using the enclosed Christmas merchandise form. We are pleased to offer our members and friends a special discount on the recommended retail price (RRP \$23; our price \$20). These books will make great Christmas gifts and enjoyable holiday reading.

## Cats & Canary Isles

Shirley, a Life Member of Cat Protection, has inspired us to ask other readers: how far does your *Cat Affairs* travel? Shirley sends her copies to her cousin Dulcie in Cairns, who then forwards them to someone else, who sends them to Gisela, who then sends them to her friend Sieglinde in the Canary Isles! Gisela writes that Sieglinde: 'helps the cat population over there. She and her band of ladies help pay for desexing etc. A lot of people come for an extended holiday and acquire a cat and some are responsible and some are not'. Three cheers for the ladies of the Canary Isles helping the cats! We wish you all the best.

## Daria Love

Former President of the Cat Protection Society, veterinary microbiologist, the late Associate Professor Daria Love, is to be honoured by the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases, with the opening address of their conference in France this September to be named after her. The Daria Love Oration, on "Viruses, pseudoviruses and parasitic cancer cells in companion animals" will be given by Professor Robin Weiss of University College London. A/Prof Love graduated Sydney University vet science with the university medal and was later awarded a PhD in vet science. She died tragically young at



## World Animal Day

World Animal Day began in 1931 at a convention of ecologists in Florence as a way to highlight the plight of endangered species. It has now grown to celebrate all animals and those who love them. The date – October 4 – was chosen because that is the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

This year, World Animal Day falls on the public holiday Monday of the October long weekend. We will be celebrating with a series of information talks followed by a blessing service for our cats. All members and friends are invited to join us but please phone us on 02 9519 7201 to reserve your place/s. You can register for one or more sessions.

### Monday 4 October at CPS

- 11am-12noon  
Caring for your older cat
- 12.30-1.30pm  
Dealing with problem behaviours
- 2.00-3.00pm  
The importance of pets to people

The last session will be followed by light refreshments and a blessing of the cats.

the age of 54, but her work, inspiration and compassion for animals live on.

Speaking at the same conference (Infectious diseases: thinking outside of the box) will be Associate Professor Vanessa Barrs, a specialist in feline medicine from the University of Sydney, and a good friend of Cat Protection through her work with the Sydney University Veterinary Hospital.





# CAT PROTECTION DIARY

## Vale Mrs Shirley Pikler

It was with much sadness that Cat Protection received the news that Life Governor, Honorary Life Member and former President of Cat Protection, Mrs Shirley Pikler, passed away on Monday 2 August.

Shirley was a committed supporter of feline welfare and gave many decades of service to the Cat Protection Society of NSW, being involved since our inception.

In recent times, you may have met her when she was volunteering at the Op Shop. She was a director of the Society since the early 1980s and was Secretary from 1985 to 1991, then Vice-President and then, between 1992 and 1998, President. Thousands of cats owe a debt of gratitude to Shirley.

In the Summer 1999 issue of *Cat Affairs*, Nance Iredale OAM wrote of Shirley's retirement "Every President hopes to leave a good legacy and Shirley has done just that. Realising we had few volunteers to continue the management of the office, she had the foresight to see we needed experienced people to carry the CPS forward ... [she] headed the team which introduced early age desexing and microchipping of all our cats and she was strong in her determination to acquire our own cattery ... she is always calm, helpful and optimistic and dearly loved by all who work with her."

Shirley's devotion to cats was also very personal and earlier this year she dedicated her contribution to Cat Protection's sculpture, *The Dream* "in loving memory of all the beautiful cats who've shared my life".

We pray that she is now at peace and with the cats she loved who shared her life.

Thank you, Shirley. You will be missed but not forgotten.

## Cats, community care and older people living alone

There is a large and growing body of evidence that demonstrates the benefits of the human-animal bond. Research shows a relationship between violent crime and cruelty to animals; conversely, it has been demonstrated that empathy can be learned in young children with the assistance of companion animals (humane education).

The health benefits of companion animals are reported to include everything from improved psychological health to reduced risk factors for cardiovascular disease, reduced blood pressure, and improved chances of survival following a heart attack.

For many older people living alone, pets provide loving companionship, a 'social lubricant' (others will make or maintain communication with the person on account of the pet) and purpose. It's obvious then, that keeping older people and their pets together is to benefit the individuals, the pets, and the community.

If the people providing care (whether as paid professionals or family carers) understood and took into account these benefits, they could provide better person-centred care. Recognising this, Cat Protection approached the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for financial assistance to develop a pilot program to assist older people receiving community care, with pet care.

We have developed background papers and an education seminar for professional care workers, and resources that can easily be used by family carers. If you are interested in finding out more, or if you care for a person who needs assistance with pet care, please contact Kristina Vesk on 02 9519 7201 or email [kristina@catprotection.org.au](mailto:kristina@catprotection.org.au).

We also have a list of pet services in the Hunter region we can email, which includes a list of pet-friendly retirement villages, and a background paper on people living with dementia and pets, with practical tips including a template animal care plan. This project supports our mission at Cat Protection to honour the unique relationship between people and cats, and we thank the Australian Government for their support.





# SCRATCHING POST



Hi

Life's hard ... but someone has to do it.

Julia

Crash and Jack

Here is Massimo, the beautiful brave cat rescued by one of our dedicated Life Members, Calee.



Massimo

## To the Cat Protection Society

Please accept my donation as a thank you for looking after Iris before I adopted her in March 2008.

She is a beautiful cat and loved by all who meet her. She is clearly the boss around the home and speaks to me when she wants something (especially food) by meowing or by one of the funny sounds that she makes. She loves to eat and also enjoys her 'playtime with mum'. I cannot imagine my life without her.

Thank you once again.

Joanne

## Hi everyone

Mimi has been with us since we got her from Cat Protection last September. She is settling in very well, enjoying her new home, and eating everything she can get her paws on. It was a bit of a shock for her to discover that she was going to be living with a large (sometimes over-enthusiastic) cat-friendly German Shepherd dog, but within a couple of weeks they were getting on famously. We believe she is part Norwegian Forest Cat, so we've renamed her Skogie, a nickname derived from the breed's formal name, Norsk Skogkatt.

Thanks very much for all your great work protecting cats in Sydney!

Jenny & Doug

**Many of you will remember our lovely long-term CPS residents Oscar and Poncho. They are both extremely happy living with Sarah – here is Poncho relaxing in his garden.**



## Hi there

My fiancée, Sam and I adopted two kittens from you last November - a little black boy with white socks and whiskers, and a little beautifully coloured tortoiseshell. They are absolutely beautiful, and super-affectionate to us and to each other.

They have an entire amusement park to explore inside the house, and have not missed the kitty litter once. They're perfect, and very happy.

Many thanks

Dave



Luxe and Alcatraz



# SCRATCHING POST



Pookie

Hi all

Here is Pookie (alias Elsa) who is doing really well, and she's totally gorgeous. She follows me around the place, and has a very loud and demanding miaow whenever she wants something, especially food, (which is quite a lot of the time).

All the best

Elly

Hi Naomi

I thought I would let you know how Rupert (now called Leo) and Pepper (Tortie) are doing. Leo is not 'Leo the Brave' – he is a real scaredy-cat. He is still very active though. He is constantly running and hiding under the couch as he hates loud noises. Pepper is the total opposite; nothing scares her. She is dying to be allowed to go outside! The best thing about them is their relationship with each other. They go crazy with each other; rolling around and playing. We are so happy to have them in our lives and we are sooooo in love with them.

Thank you

Isabelle

Hi Kristina

I've acquired a new cat, Jessie, five years old, who turned up and applied for the vacancy left by Harry. I had planned to take one of yours, but she was very insistent and after being returned to her owners (she was chipped) came back here two weeks later. So the owners asked if I'd like to keep her.

Jessie has settled in brilliantly (she loves the printer - note the wary eye) and the best thing is there have been no spats with Sally, my other - very old - cat. They're not in love, but they tolerate one another.

Gil

Hi Guys

April (nee Goldie) is doing really well. She loves the heated bed I bought for her, and it makes me feel less guilty about leaving her in this cold. She's still really playful and 'throws' her toys around and then chases them like they've suddenly appeared out of nowhere! Very entertaining.

She's a sook with a huge motor, so she's exactly what I wanted :-)

Thank you for rescuing her first so I could second.

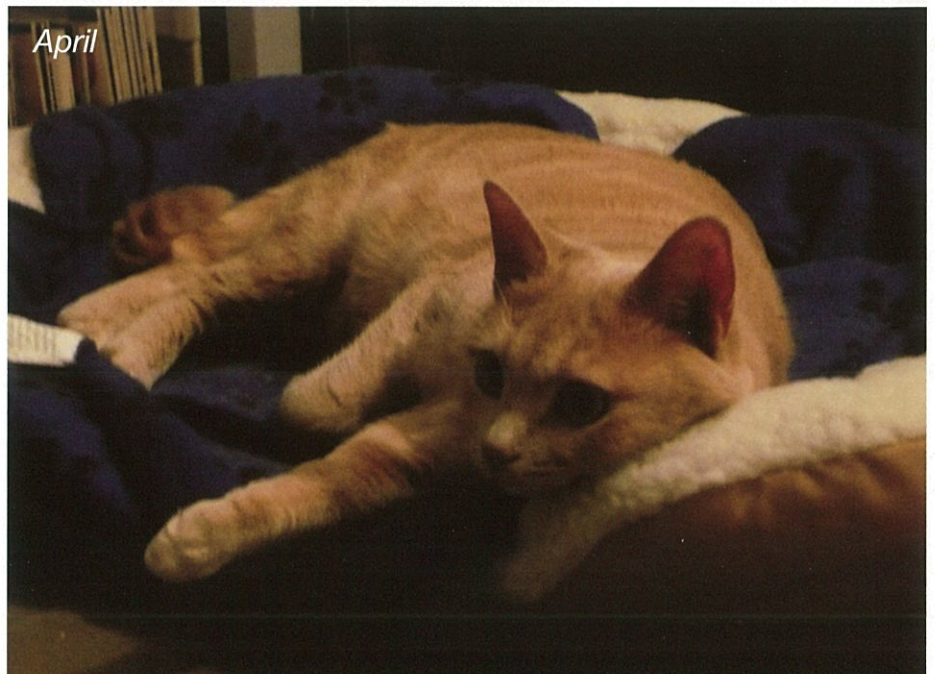
Kirsten



Jessie



April





# SCRATCHING POST

## Hi everyone at CPS

We adopted this little man when he was eight months old, and his name was then Pupu. When we got him home he stomped round the house and made a hell of a noise, so we called him Ari after the character on the TV show *Entourage* who yells and screams at everyone!

Ari is an interesting little chap; we call him 'evilcat' as he has a bit of an evil tendency about him. He does have a good side too, and it's very sweet when he will jump up for a cuddle on the sofa! He is a bit of an alpha cat, and has some bad habits but we are slowly training him and he's getting better as the days go on. He's a bit scruffy looking and can never manage to look tidy, but that's all part of his charm!

We already had two other cats from CPS, Lacey and George, and were a bit concerned they wouldn't get on, but we took the introduction time very slowly and there have thankfully been no big arguments, just a lot of cat politics! They all sleep on the bed together now and eat meals together, play together and generally get on pretty well, so we were very lucky.

Thanks for all your help. We love all three of our cats and can't imagine life without them!

Jen & Tom

## Dear CPS

We put our paws into our money box and had our slave write a cheque, to help look after our feline cousins =^: ^=

Portia, Samcat, Ollie, Reilly, Bella, Tiger & Sophia

*Thank you so much – your kitty cousins are most grateful ☺*



Ari

## Hello

Soon after I arrived in Sydney in 2003, I went to the Cat Protection Society to find a companion. After spending two hours at the centre meeting and greeting cats of all kinds, my heart was won over by Lolly. She was apparently dumped after having a litter of kittens and her age was estimated at one year.

Since that time she has not grown too much, but she has

become a much loved member of our household. She has a keen sense of the warmest location in the house and is often found snuggled inside blankets. This picture of Lolly shows her enjoying some time in the garden. I just wanted to say thank you to the CPS for Lolly and for all the good work that you do.

Allison



Lolly





# SCRATCHING POST



*Miccio and Rosie*

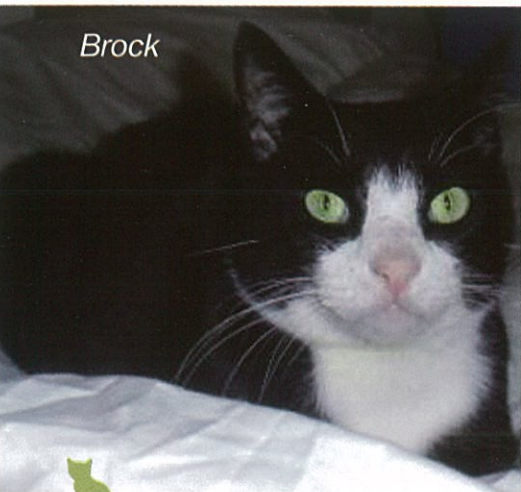
## Hi

We thought we would send you some photos of Brock. He is getting very settled in our house, and we're all a lot happier since we changed him to the sensitive stomach food.

We had a dinner party the other night, and Brock was very sociable, making friends with all our guests.

We are very glad that Brock chose us to be his humans.

Zoe & Shaz



*Brock*

## To the lovely team at CPS

It has taken my people a long time to let you know how we are getting on, but I have to say we have the purr-fect life!!

Firstly, our people renamed us and we were ok with that. My girlfriend Tulip (that's her with the fluffy tail, but I guess you knew that!!) is now called Rosie and I (the handsome white and ginger, with the seriously intense stare!!) am now Miccio. Apparently it means 'mate' in Italian. Anyways, I think they suit us, don't you?

We have been in our new home for eight months now and we have had the best time. Every day is an adventure. We have a big house with a really huge and interesting backyard. We roam the gardens of Marrickville during the day and at night we settle in our beds in the bathroom and sleep ... and dream ... of all the adventures to be had.

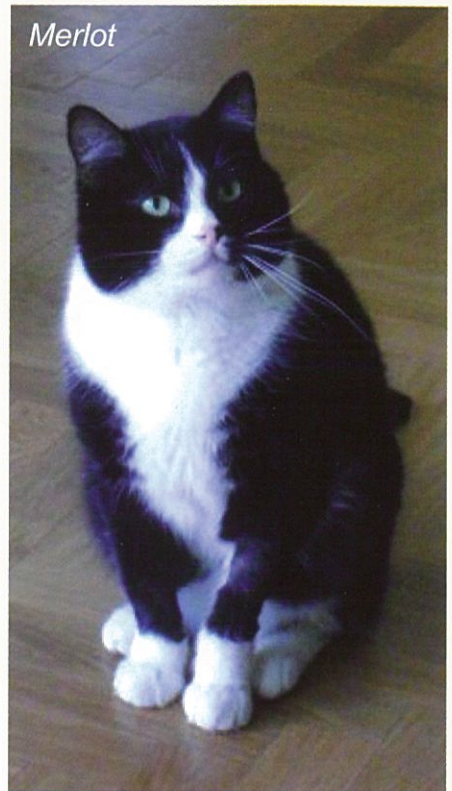
Our new friend Stella takes good care of us. She feeds us every day and changes our water. She plays with us heaps, running around and throwing things and sometimes she pulls our tail, but we don't mind because she is still only 4!! But I tell you, this family and Stella give the best cuddles in the whole of the world!!

I really wanted you guys to know that both Rosie and I are the happiest pussy cats in the whole of Marrickville.

Thank you for finding us such a loving, warm and fun home.

Miccio

*Merlot*



## To Ellen & all at Cat Protection

This is the latest photo of Merlot, who was hit by a car and then nursed back to health and cared for by you at Newtown until 24 October 2009 when he was adopted by me.

As you can see, he is very happy here in his home and much-loved. He is getting on really well with my other cat Muffin, who is 18 years old, and the two boys have become good mates and both eat and sleep together.

It has all worked out better than I could have imagined and I can't thank you enough for taking such good care of him and bringing us all together.

Joy

*Members may remember Brock, a lucky stray rescued by a kind person – just in time too, because he had a massive hernia that would have killed him if he'd lived on the streets much longer. Cat Protection arranged his surgery and rehabilitation and, as you can see, he is now thriving in a loving home. Thanks to everyone who helped Brock, and best wishes to him and his family. Editor.*



# SCRATCHING POST



Costa

## Hello

We thought you might like to know that our new furry friend Costa (adopted from you last November) is doing very well.

You can see he is making himself at home and we think he is SO cute! (Yes, we might be biased). It took him a while to make it out of the bathroom, but after one week for the first time we enjoyed big snuggles on the sofa! Mmm!!! ☺

Frankie

## Hi

Just thought I'd let you know that Ella, now called 'Missy Moo', could not have settled in better. She is eating, drinking, pooing and more to the point, ridiculously relaxed and looks as if she has been here from birth!! She also fulfils the role of younger sibling to (our daughter) Elsie in every possible way – getting involved in all play activities, getting in the way of all play activities, running off with favourite (small) toys, following, chasing and tumbling with Elsie including the occasional surprise 'attacks' from blind corners, etc etc. She is well-loved.



Missy Moo and Elsie

Cheers

Richard, Jen & Elsie

## Hello

Here are some photos of our kitten Otis, adopted November 2009.

Christie



Otis

Here are beautiful Katie and Lily, adopted by one of our very generous supporters, Grace.



Katie and Lily



# When is it time to say goodbye?

Kristina Veski

On 8 July, my family and I bade our two oldest cats, Lydia and Imogen, farewell. It was incredibly difficult and terribly sad. Lydia was 19 years old – older than my daughter – I remember her curled up on me when I went into labour. Imogen, who died at 16 and a half years, joined us as a kitten when my daughter was one. They grew up together, and were like sisters. The bond between Lydia and Imogen was something else again: they were utterly devoted to each other. They ate together, played together, groomed each other, slept together. In the end, both suffering from advanced renal failure, they died together.

In their final days, the question for us was, do we let them suffer or do we end the pain with euthanasia? This is a difficult question that confronts most of us as cat carers – and then the question is, if we elect to 'put them to sleep', when is the right time?

Our vet made a useful analogy – to consider what was happening to my cats as like a window closing, with the pain and suffering increasing as the window got closer to shut. If my aim was prevent undue pain and suffering, leaving the decision to euthanase until the window was practically shut would mean I let the cats suffer for too long. But could I be making the decision too early, denying my cats another day or two? It was the hardest decision – how could I know? What did my cats want?

It was a matter of days, not weeks or months – I couldn't defer thinking about it, I had to deal with it. I phoned the vet again, spoke about what was happening, discussed symptoms, asked questions, sought reassurance. My family and I spent much time holding our cats, crying and questioning – were we doing the right thing? Was it for us to choose the time of our cats'



*Imogen and Lydia*

passing anyway? I read articles on the internet, I talked to my cats. I told them I was sorry, I asked them what they wanted. I knew it was time to say goodbye. I made the decision. And then we spent the next 18 hours doing nothing but patting and stroking our cats and telling them how much we loved them. They knew.

Our cats had been patients of the same vet clinic for the past 10 years, with regular home visits in the past four – all the staff knew our cats and us well. The vet and vet nurse came to our home. Lydia was in my arms when she died and Imogen was in my daughter's. We held them for a while and then we wrapped them in baby blankets, put them together in a carrier and the vet took them. The cats were cremated together and we now have their ashes, together as they always were. We still miss them terribly but we know they are at peace, and in the end, we were with them and they did not suffer.

Such a decision will never be an easy one to make and every situation will be unique. There is, however, one piece of advice that I will give with confidence: if you have a cat, the best thing you can do for them is to have a good relationship with your vet.

Find a vet you trust, have good communication with them and stay with them. At the end,

although it is you who has to make the decision, and you who knows your cat best, it is the vet on whom you will depend for guidance and support. You can't expect a vet who doesn't know you and doesn't know your cat to be able to do this nearly as well as one who knows you both well. Our vet's support and knowledge made all the difference in the world, to both us and our cats.

There are many difficult ethical questions to grapple with, as well as practical ones – there is no simple way to get through the situation. It will be a struggle and you will be trying to deal with it at a time of profound grief. The best you can do is know that should the time ever come for you to make a decision about euthanasia, you will be making an informed decision, in consultation with a vet who knows you and knows your cat. Don't be afraid to seek support and help, and trust yourself.

To anyone who has ever been through this, you have my heartfelt sympathies. To all the wonderful vets and vet nurses who are there for us and our cats, in good times and bad, thank you: you are amazing people. To all the beautiful cats who have shared our lives – and to my beautiful Lydia and Imogen – thank you for the privilege, for the joy you brought us and for the love you shared. Bless you all.



# IN MEMORIAM

In memory of all my wonderfully-loved deceased feline friends.

Jan



I have just found out that Mushy has died. He was the resident cat at the local 're-use shop' called 'The Bower' in Addison St, Marrickville. He would sleep on the shop counter and got much attention from all the customers. He was never a well pussy but finally contracted a growth on his neck and had to be put down. He was 12.

Regards, JR

Mushy was my Sylvester's friend. Sylvester hung out with him in the Bower's wood-yard when he needed a break from the mob at our place.

Vanessa



Mishy, you have been the love of my life and the light in my heart. I miss you so, so much and the pain I'm feeling hurts so deeply. I love you my little baby. I can't wait to see you again one day, as I know I will.

Kitsa



*By associating with the cat,  
one only risks becoming richer.*  
Colette

Mum's love for animals reached very far ... There was never a time without an animal or two or six. Strays would wander in and never leave – Victa the goat, Mao the rooster, Sloe the Labrador and cats too numerous to name, plus possums and blue tongues. One cat we had when I was young had a disease which stopped her walking – the vet didn't think that she would walk again. There was never a thought to end her life. I remember it was a Sunday morning, because on Sundays we would read the paper on mum and dad's bed, in wobbled Friendly. That is unconditional love at its best.

The last few years, a stray had come into mum's life. My initial encouragement of feeding this tiny black and white cat led to a constant companion for mum. This companion aptly named Woopsie never left mum's side, literally – really never left her chest. Woopsie now gave to mum what mum had given all of those years. This small cat said thank you for all the other animals. She cared for mum.

Shelley

## CAT PROTECTION OPENING HOURS

**Office and Adoptions:**

103 Enmore Road, Newtown

**Office hours:**

9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday Tel: 9519 7201

**Adoption hours:**

11am to 2.30pm, Sunday to Friday; 10am to 3.30pm Saturday  
Tel: 9557 4818

**Op Shop:**

105 Enmore Road, Newtown Tel: 9516 2072

The Op Shop is generally open between 10am and 4pm, seven days a week. If closed, donations can be left next door at the Cat Protection office

*Cat Affairs is your magazine, so tell us what you think.*

*Feel free to send us an email at [kristina@catprotection.org.au](mailto:kristina@catprotection.org.au) or post us a letter with your feedback.*

*We welcome contributions from readers, but CPS reserves the right to edit, abridge, alter or reject any material.*

*CPS does not pay for contributions.*

**Not a member of Cat Protection?**

**For just \$30 a year you can receive your own copy of *Cat Affairs* four times a year and help give cats a voice.**

Membership forms available from our website [www.catprotection.org.au](http://www.catprotection.org.au) or by phoning our office on 02 9519 7201.

**Care for cats!**







# It's Not a Miracle, it's the Power of Precise Nutrition.™



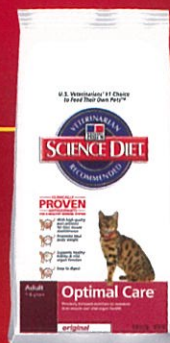
## Spade's story

When I adopted Spade he had been severely injured and required specific veterinary and dietary care. Important to his recovery was the quality nutrition of Prescription Diet and Science Diet. Now fully recovered, Spade has energy to play and his coat is shiny and soft.

Michelle Minehan

To see Spade's full story, and other amazing Hill's® transformation stories, go to [FeedingIsBelieving.com.au](http://FeedingIsBelieving.com.au)

**Transform your cat's life  
from as little as 73c per day\***



**73c**  
per day\*

\*Based on feeding a 5kg cat a 6kg bag of Hill's Science Diet Feline Adult Optimal Care, in accordance with Hill's RRP of \$64.95 as at January 2009.



Vets' No. 1 Choice To Feed Their Own Pets™

© 2009 Hill's Pet Nutrition Pty. Limited. ®/™ Hill's, Prescription Diet and Science Diet are registered trademarks owned by Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.